

Application Serial No.: 09/809,155

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4 through 8, and 11 through 19 are in the application, with claims 1, 8, and 17 having been amended and claims 2, 3, 9, 10 and 16 having been cancelled. Claims 1 and 8 are the independent claims herein. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

§101 Rejection

Claims 8-16 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101. The rejection is based on the recitation of Claim 16 and its alleged influence on Claim 8. Claim 16 has been cancelled, thereby eliminating any such influence. Remaining Claims 8, 11-15 and 19 are therefore believed to recite statutory subject matter, and withdrawal of the corresponding rejection is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that claims 3 and 10 contain allowable subject matter. The subject matter of claim 3 (which includes the subject matter of dependent claim 2) has been incorporated into independent claim 1 and the subject matter of claims 10 (which includes the subject matter of dependent claim 9) has been incorporated into independent claim 8. Therefore, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS

Applicants respectfully request acknowledgement of the four Information Disclosure Statements originally filed on June 12, 2001; June 28, 2005; July 2, 2002; and October 8, 2002. At the request of the Examiner, copies of these Information Disclosure Statements and references were resubmitted on Feb. 4, 2008 in response to an office communication mailed November 15, 2002 requesting copies of the Information Disclosure Statements with the references. Further PAIR still does not show these Information Disclosure Statements.

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CONCLUSION

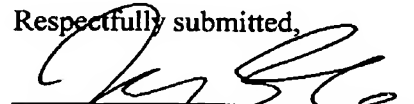
For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Because the reasons set forth above are sufficient to overcome the rejections set forth in the outstanding Office Action, Applicants do not address some of the assertions set forth therein and/or other possible reasons for overcoming the rejections. Nonetheless, Applicants reserve the right to address such assertions and/or to present other possible reasons for overcoming the rejections in any future paper and/or proceeding.

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Respectfully submitted,


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